

# 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRASH OF TWA FLIGHT 800

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, today is the 10th anniversary of the tragic crash of TWA Flight 800, which took the lives of 230 men and women off the coast of Long Island, near my congressional district. It is important that we keep alive the memory of those who perished over the Atlantic just moments after departing for home or on a school trip or to visit loved ones, and we must do all that we can to safeguard the flying public against future disasters.

Just as importantly, the brave families of those who lost their loved ones during the Flight 800 disaster deserve our recognition, as do the emergency personnel, volunteers and neighbors who selflessly worked for days on end in the recovery efforts.

Like other challenging times our Nation has faced, the reaction to the Flight 800 catastrophe brought out the best not only in my constituents, but in so many others in the surrounding towns, States and across the Nation who joined in mourning the loss of so many lives and helped a community recover from its most horrific tragedy.

Throughout and despite their grief, the families of the victims worked tirelessly to build a permanent memorial with the help of Navy Seabees and thousands of dedicated local and building trade union members. Today this solemn monument serves as a constant reminder of our tremendous loss one decade ago.

The memory of the passengers of Flight 800 lives on because of the continued work of people who will always remember what happened. I have visited the site of the Flight 800 Memorial many times. The recent completion of the monument offers some measure of closure to everyone who was affected by this terrible tragedy.

In the 10 years since Flight 800, hundreds of thousands have visited the park in an acknowledgment of a shared sorrow for those who died. The monument ensures that future generations can do the same.

As we recognize the 10th anniversary of the Flight 800 disaster, it is important that we take stock of our progress in preventing air disasters over the last decade.

We have made some great strides in aviation safety, particularly, for example, with design upgrades for planes and an ongoing effort to mitigate fuel tank flammability, the cause of the Flight 800 crash.

But what haven't we done? Regrettably, we have not addressed the underlying cause of the Flight 800 explosion. The FAA has delayed taking on this challenge for years, and we still do not have a final FAA directive that will protect every air traveler.

The cause of the Flight 800 catastrophe was determined years ago, and

we know how to prevent similar disasters. We have the technology to protect against another tragedy like the one witnessed 10 years ago, but to date we still don't have the mandate for change.

Last year, I introduced H.R. 4174, the Transport Aircraft Fuel Tank Safety Act, which requires the FAA to retrofit all planes with new technology and to increase safety. In addition, I have recently petitioned the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to hold hearings on the safety of fuel tanks on airplanes and get to the bottom of why we don't upgrade all planes with the necessary technology.

I am hopeful that my colleagues here in the Congress will work with me to bring an end to this delay. With the completion of the Flight 800 monument, we have taken significant steps towards maintaining the memory of Flight 800, but we should also ensure that we don't have another Flight 800.

I would like to offer my deepest condolences to the surviving families and friends of the victims of Flight 800, and to commend them on the grace and dignity with which they handled unspeakable pain.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GILCHREST addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

## TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO WITHDRAW OUR TROOPS FROM IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House for 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Out of Iraq Caucus, I urge this administration to take immediate action on a plan to withdraw our troops from Iraq. The American people were misled into this war, and they want the leaders of this Nation to take responsibility and end this war now.

I was among those who opposed the tragic decision to launch this war. I warned that the invasion and occupation of Iraq would plunge us into a bloody quagmire of violence that would only intensify the instability in the Middle East and leave our own Nation less secure and less able to protect our national interest.

The sad truth is that all the grimmest predictions have now come

true. Today, the Taliban are mounting a major comeback in Afghanistan. Iran is on the verge of producing a nuclear weapon. Somalia is dominated by an al Qaeda-inspired militia, and the Hezbollah has attacked Israel. In return, Israel has attacked Lebanon. Here at home, our Nation is at risk.

As fundamental recommendations of the 9/11 Commission remain unfulfilled, those who still support the Iraq war often claim it has made this Nation a safer place, that it has kept away the terrorists and stopped another 9/11 tragedy.

Unfortunately, such wishful thinking is only an effort to justify the horrendous human suffering that we have caused by this misguided mission, an effort to justify a war that was never properly planned and executed, a war that has wounded thousands and cost the lives of 2,547 American soldiers.

The human toll of this war is still climbing, and throughout the world terrorism is on the rise. This administration talks a lot about national security, but without doing anything about it.

Those in Congress know the war in Iraq has made America a more vulnerable Nation. Congress is appropriating millions and millions of dollars on homeland security projects. The U.S. Capitol complex is saturated with security, and certainly no one in this body behaves as if the war in Iraq has made our Nation safe from terrorism.

In fact, the Iraq war has only inspired terrorism. Democracy is not flourishing in the Middle East, and the costs of the Iraq war and our global antiterrorist operations will top \$500 billion next year.

It is time to bring our troops home and to devote our resources to protecting the American people.

## SUPPORT ISRAEL IN THE WAR ON TERRORISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REICHERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I was proud to be one of the speakers outside the United Nations in New York at a huge rally in support of Israel. It was attended by tens of thousands of people and showed strong support for the people of Israel as they struggle against terrorism. I would hope that later on this week there will be a resolution on the House floor to once again show Congress' bipartisan support for Israel.

Mr. Speaker, Israel's fight against terrorism is our fight. The war on terrorism is our war. It is everybody's war. We need to support Israel in this time of struggle. It makes no difference whether terrorists drop bombs on Haifa or send planes into the World Trade Center or blow up innocent commuters on their way to work in India or London or Madrid, or blow up people in hotels in Bali and other places.

Terrorism is terrorism, and those of us who think that terrorism is only over there are certainly kidding themselves. Terrorism is everywhere, and the only way to stomp out terrorism is to show a resolve and to get the job done by defeating terrorists. That is precisely what Israel is trying to do.

Let us remember who started this war. Israel pulled out of Lebanon 6 years ago, so there is no pretext of any occupation. There is no pretext of anything other than the fact that terrorists would like to destroy democratic societies such as Israel, and Israel remains the only democracy in the Middle East.

These terrorists want to destroy the democratic way of life, not only in Israel, but in America and all other democracies of the world. That is why Israel's fight is the fight of all decent nations, including the United States of America.

These terrorists want to destroy life. Israel is standing up to them and saying enough is enough. We should let Israel finish the job.

Israel wants to knock out the terrorist group Hezbollah for good, so they can never return to south Lebanon and threaten Israel's communities from the south of Lebanon on the northern border with Israel. We should let them do that because the status quo is not acceptable. We have already heard words from the naysayers telling Israel to use restraint.

Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that we can use restraint, or that Israel can use restraint, or that any country can use restraint towards terrorists that are out to kill them and us. We should let Israel finish the job.

Let us remember how this started. The terrorists came down from Lebanon, raided Israel, went on Israeli territory, killed Israeli soldiers, captured a couple of them, took them across the border. That is how it started.

Imagine if this had happened to us, if someone came from the Mexican border or the Canadian border, attacked U.S. soldiers on U.S. soil, killed some of them and then took them back over the border.

Mr. Speaker, we would be just as outraged, and we would have every right to go after those terrorists. That is what Israel is going to do.

Hezbollah is a terrorist organization. It is fighting a proxy war for Iran and Syria. Iran and Syria lurk behind this. Iran and Syria are the biggest supporters of terrorism.

A couple of years ago, this Congress passed and the President signed the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act. I wrote that act. I was the lead sponsor of that act, along with my good friend, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. That act slapped sanctions on Syria for the first time in history.

President Bush has only implemented some of the sanctions in that act, and I call on the President to now

implement all of the sanctions on the act. Now is the time. Now we have to show Syria and other countries that support terrorists that we are resolved to defeat terrorism.

I was very happy when the United States vetoed the one-sided resolution at the United Nations, once again condemning Israel, once again discrediting the United Nations. The United States needs to be steadfast in support, and this Congress needs to do so as well.

So in conclusion, let me say I look forward to a resolution later on in this week. The United States needs to stand by its friend, Israel, and Israel needs to stand by its friend, the United States, and all peace-loving and democratic nations in the world ought to stand shoulder to shoulder firmly against terrorism. Because if terrorism is not contained in one area of the world, it surely will come to every other area of the world.

#### THE U.S.-OMAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, tonight we rise at a time when people all over the world are watching the Middle East, are watching the bombs that have lit up both Israel and Lebanon, are watching the troop movements and are hoping earnestly for peace.

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Certainly the support of Israel is going to be loudly and consistently articulated in this Chamber this week, but we also have an opportunity to do something substantive, to improve our engagement with the Middle East in the coming week.

This week, we have an opportunity to vote on a substantive agreement which will bring one of the nations of the Middle East closer to the United States, promote economic opportunity and integration in the region, and lay the groundwork, in my view, for closer ties between the United States and some of our key partners in the Middle East and one in particular.

With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight as cochairman of the Middle East Economic Partnership Caucus, and I expect to be joined by a couple of my other cochairmen, to talk tonight about the benefits of the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement, which we expect to be voted on in the House this week.

At a time when there is great instability in the Middle East, at a time when we are concerned on how the Middle East affects our homeland security, at a time when we want to do something positive to create economic opportunities in a region where the lack of them has spawned terrorism, this is a small, but important, opportunity.

The Middle East, we believe, is increasingly becoming economically integrated with the West, and if we want to fight the root causes of terrorism, we should be encouraging that. It is critical that now, more than ever, we encourage this integration to promote closer ties, democracy and social liberalization through a process of economic interaction and close cooperation.

In recent years, America's dialogue in the Middle East has been deepened by the addition of bilateral and, ultimately, strongly bipartisan free trade agreements, first with Israel, then with Jordan, then with Morocco and, most recently, with Bahrain.

The U.S.-Oman FTA, slated for a vote in the House Chamber this Thursday, largely builds off of the successful model that was set by the U.S.-Bahrain FTA, further supporting openness and stronger ties between the U.S. and the Middle East and the Maghreb regions.

Over the past year, Oman has clearly demonstrated a powerful commitment to this agreement and closer relations with the West, both in terms of its political will and institutional resources, making significant strides in improving its labor practices and opening its markets and being accountable for intellectual property issues and cracking down on intellectual property violations.

In numerous communications with our U.S. trade Representative, Omani leaders have promised to take a number of concrete steps by October 31, 2006, to build on the strong labor reforms already implemented, and in my view, as a member of the Trade Subcommittee who has closely followed this process, Oman has come further than virtually any other country we have ever engaged in this manner in dealing with core labor issues. Their commitment shows Oman's determination to address all concerns, while respecting the rule of law and its legislative processes.

In addition, all of these commitments are fully verifiable because Oman has agreed to have all of them reviewed under the FTA's labor consultation mechanism. The U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement provides one of the highest degrees of market access of any U.S. free trade agreement to date and accounts for a substantial market access across Oman's entire services regime.

This agreement will make 100 percent of U.S. imports and exports and consumer and industrial goods duty free on the day the agreement enters into force. It also provides duty free treatment to 87 percent of our agricultural exports from day one. In terms of being accountable for intellectual property rights violations, Oman has agreed to criminal standards for copyright infringement and stronger remedies and penalties. It will increase criminal and civil protection against unlawful encoding of satellite TV signals and criminalize end-use piracy, providing strong